Assembly Bill No. 2671

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Passed the Assembly August 18, 2008

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Chief Clerk of the Assembly

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Passed the Senate August 14, 2008

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Secretary of the Senate

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This bill was received by the Governor this _____ day of _____, 2008, at _____ o'clock ____м.

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Private Secretary of the Governor

CHAPTER _____

An act to add Sections 3070.5 and 5027 to the Penal Code, relating to prisoners.

AB 2671, Salas. Prisoners: veterans.

Existing law requires the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to develop a plan that would ensure that prisoners who are substance abusers receive appropriate treatment, as specified.

This bill would require the department to create a prerelease program for incarcerated honorably discharged veterans to apply for state and federal benefits for veterans, as specified.

Under existing law, the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation has jurisdiction over any person committed to the state prison.

This bill would require the Secretary of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to ask whether any person committed to his or her facility is a military veteran. This bill would require the department, commencing on July 1, 2009, to make the number of incarcerated veterans available to the Legislature, as specified.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 3070.5 is added to the Penal Code, to read:

3070.5. The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation shall create a prerelease application process for honorably discharged incarcerated veterans who are eligible for federal and state benefits, especially federal veteran disability compensation and pension payments.

SEC. 2. Section 5027 is added to the Penal Code, to read:

5027. Upon receipt of any person committed to the state prison, the Secretary of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation shall ask whether or not the person is a military veteran. Commencing on July 1, 2009, the department shall make the

number of incarcerated veterans available to the Legislature, and shall update the number of incarcerated veterans at least annually.

Approved _____, 2008

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                                    Governor